

42 U.S.C § 1983

CIVIL COMPLAINT

Nick Bigsby

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. 1:22-cv-2087-RLY-MG

Vs.

ERIC J. HOLCOMB, et al.

Defendants.

FILED

10/27/2022

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
Roger A.G. Sharpe, Clerk

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION**

Nick Bigsby,

Plaintiff,

Vs.

Case No: 1:22-cv-2087-RLY-MG

ERIC HOLCOMB, Governor;

ROBERT E. CARTER, Jr., Commissioner;

DR. DAUSS, I.D.O.C. Medical Director;

DENNIS REAGLE, Warden;

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ;)

CENTURION MEDICAL PROVIDER, Each)

Are sued in their individual and in his (or her))

official Capacity.

At all times mentioned in this Complaint

Each defendant acted under the color of

State law;

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

I. Introduction

1. This is a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action Complaint filed by Plaintiff, Nick Bigsby, prisoners alleging violation of their constitutional rights to adequate conditions of confinement and adequate medical care in prison seeking injunctive relief and money damages.

II. Jurisdiction

2. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 in that this is a civil action arising under the Constitution of the United States.
3. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1343(a) in that this action seeks to redress the deprivation, under color of State law, of the rights secured by acts of Congress providing for equal rights of persons within the jurisdiction of the United States.
4. The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division is an appropriate venue under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (b)(2) because it is where the events giving rise to this claim occurred.
5. Plaintiff seeks declaratory relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201 and 2202.
6. Plaintiff claims for injunctive relief are authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2283 and 2284 and also Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
7. The Court has Supplemental Jurisdiction over Plaintiff's State law claims under 28 U.S.C. §1367.

III. Parties

8. Plaintiff, Nick Bigsby is and was at all times mentioned herein a prisoner of the State of Indiana in the custody of the Indiana Department of Corrections. He is currently confined in Pendleton Correctional Facility, 4490 West Reformatory Road, Pendleton, Indiana 46064.
9. Defendant Eric J. Holcomb, at all relevant times mentioned was the Governor for the State of Indiana; his role is to make sure that the Indiana Department of Corrections and their employees that are employed as prison officials are making sure that incarcerated offenders' basic human needs are being met at all the State of Indiana Adult Prison Facilities.
-- State of Indiana Department of Corrections, 302 W. Washington St., Rm. E334,
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738
10. Defendant Robert E. Carter, Jr., at all relevant times mentioned was the Commissioner for the State of Indiana; his role is to make sure that the Indiana Department of Corrections and their employees that are employed as prison officials are making sure that incarcerated offenders' basic human needs are being met at all the State of Indiana Adult Prison Facilities.
-- State of Indiana Department of Corrections, 302 W. Washington St., Rm. E334,
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738
11. Defendant Dr. Dauss, at all relevant times mentioned was the Indiana Department of Corrections Medical Director; her role is to make sure that the Indiana Department of Corrections and their employees that are employed as prison officials are making sure that incarcerated offenders' basic human needs are being met at all the State of Indiana Adult Prison Facilities.
-- State of Indiana Department of Corrections, 302 W. Washington St., Rm. E334,
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738

12. Defendant Dennis Reagle, at all relevant times mentioned was the Warden for Pendleton Correctional Facility; his role is to make sure that the Indiana Department of Corrections prison officials and also their private medical contractors are making sure that incarcerated offenders' basic human needs are being met at all the State of Indiana Adult Prison Facilities.

-- Pendleton Correctional Facility, 4490 West Reformatory Road, Pendleton, IN 46064

13. Defendant Indiana Department of Corrections, at all relevant times mentioned was Corporation and their employees that are employed as prison officials are making sure that incarcerated offenders' basic human needs are being met at all the State of Indiana Adult Prison Facilities.

-- State of Indiana Department of Corrections, 302 W. Washington St., Rm. E334,
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2738

14. Defendant Centurion Medical Provider, at all relevant times mentioned was the private medical contractor for the Indiana Department of Corrections; their role is to ensure that incarcerated offenders are receiving adequate medical services.

-- Centurion Health, 334 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

IV. Exhaustion of Available Remedies

15. Plaintiff has exhausted all of his administrative remedies before filing this complaint.

V. Factual Statement

16. On November of 2021, through June 7, 2022, Plaintiff, Nick Bigsby had got injured from showering, drinking and consuming contaminated water that has legionella bacteria and other possible bacteria and chemical contaminates that are from old lead piping that are decades old at Pendleton Correctional Facility.

17. The Plaintiff injuries are cough, headaches, abdomen pains, muscle aches, shortness of breath, nausea, cold chills, fever and diarrhea, stool complications, cardiovascular problems and possible kidney problems. These injuries came from the Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider policies and practices and their failure to treat the plaintiff injuries from contaminated water, and as of June 7, 2022, the Defendants still has shown total disregard to address the Plaintiff injuries.
18. Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider was liable from their policies, practices and customs and they were deliberately indifferent in making sure that there is an adequate number of the Indiana Department of Corrections employees and the Centurion Medical Provider employees to transport the Plaintiff to a medical department to be seen by a nurse and physician after the Plaintiff had experienced cough, headaches, abdomen pains, muscle aches, shortness of breath, nausea, cold chills, fever, diarrhea, stool complications, cardiovascular problems and possible kidney problems. These injuries came from the contaminated water at the prison. Pendleton Correctional Facility is short-staffed.
19. Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider was liable from their policies, practices and customs and they were deliberately indifferent in making sure that the old lead piping at Pendleton Correctional Facility were replaced after receiving reports from the Plaintiff that the water was contaminated and also receiving reports from outside private contractors and the news media that the water was contaminated. The Defendants had cared less to remedy the problem with the old lead piping.

20. Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana

Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider was liable from their policies, practices and customs and they were gross when they had retaliated against the Plaintiff, Nick Bigsby when they continue to deny the Plaintiff medical care when the Plaintiff was experiencing cough, headaches, abdomen pains, muscle aches, shortness of breath, nausea, cold chills, fever, diarrhea, stool complications, cardiovascular problems and possible kidney problems. The Defendants had treated the Plaintiff as a nuisance because the Plaintiff kept constantly seeking medical care from the Defendants because the Plaintiff was in pain from consuming and showering with contaminated water.

21. Upon information and belief one incarcerated man had died from contaminated water and five men incarcerated at the prison had been hospitalized for treatment. Please see Exhibit A, which is attached to the back of this complaint.

22. All the Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana

Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider through their policies, practices and customs when they had violated 42 U.S.C. § 300f et. Seq. (1974) The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) when they failed to have quality of drinking water at Pendleton Correctional Facility that injured the Plaintiff when he had consumed and bathed from the contaminated water. Please see Exhibit B, which is attached to the back of this complaint.

Claims For Relief

A. Denied Medical Care Claims

23. Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana

Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider are liable from their policies, practices and customs and also their deliberately indifference to the Plaintiff, Nick Bigsby

health and safety when they failed to provide adequate medical care to the Plaintiff when he had experienced cough, headaches, abdomen pains, muscle aches, shortness of breath, nausea, cold chills, fever, diarrhea, stool complications, cardiovascular problems and possible kidney problems due to the harmful effects of the bacteria and chemicals contaminated water from the lead piping at Pendleton Correction Facility in the month of November 2021, through June 7, 2022. This constitutes deliberate indifference to Plaintiff serious medical needs in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

24. Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider are liable from their policies, practices and customs and also their deliberately indifference to the Plaintiff, Nick Bigsby health and safety when the Defendants knew and disregarded having an adequate number of the Indiana Department of Corrections employees and the Centurion Medical Provider employees to transport the Plaintiff to a medical department at Pendleton Correctional Facility so that they can be treated and seen by a nurse and a physician when the Plaintiff had experienced cough, headaches, abdomen pains, muscle aches, shortness of breath, nausea, cold chills, fever, diarrhea, stool complications, cardiovascular problems and possible kidney problems due to the harmful effects of the bacteria and chemicals contaminated water from the lead piping at Pendleton Correctional Facility. Pendleton Correctional Facility is understaffed this incident happened from November of 2021, through June 7, 2022. This constitutes deliberate indifference to Plaintiff serious medical needs in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

**B. Environmental Hazards
Conditions of Confinement Claims**

25. Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider are liable from their policies, practices and customs and also their deliberately indifference to the Plaintiff, Nick Bigsby health and safety when the Defendants had failed to replace the lead piping at Pendleton Correctional Facility that has contaminated water from bacteria and chemicals from the lead piping that caused the Plaintiff to have headaches, abdomen pains, muscle aches, shortness of breath, nausea, cold chills, fever, diarrhea, stool complications, cardiovascular problems and possible kidney problems from bathing and consuming contaminated water. This is an environmental Hazard and constitutes deliberate indifference to the Plaintiff basic human needs in his conditions of confinement at Pendleton Correctional Facility in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

C. Retaliation Claims

26. Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider had retaliated against the Plaintiff, Nick Bigsby when the Defendants had treated the Plaintiff as a nuisance and denied his medical care because the Plaintiff kept constantly seeking medical care from the Defendant s because the Plaintiff was in pain consuming and showering with contaminated water that caused the Plaintiff to experience cough, headaches, abdomen pains, muscle aches, shortness of breath, nausea, cold, chills, fever, diarrhea, stool complications, cardiovascular problems and possible kidney problems. This constitutes retaliation for the Plaintiff using his

Freedom of Expression to seek medical care that was denied by the Defendants in violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

D. Negligence State Law Claims

27. Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider had neglected the Plaintiff, Nick Bigsby medical care when he was sick from contaminated water from the lead piping at Pendleton Correctional Facility that caused the Plaintiff to have illnesses such as cough, headaches, abdomen pains, muscle aches, shortness of breath, nausea, cold chills, fever, diarrhea, stool complications, cardiovascular problems and possible kidney problems. The Defendants knew that there was harmful bacteria and chemicals in the water and they refused to change the lead piping at Pendleton Correctional Facility and they were careless to render medical services to the Plaintiff. This constitutes negligence under State law in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

E. Violation of 42 U.S.C. § 300F et seq. (1974) The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Claims

28. Defendants Eric J. Holcomb, Robert E. Carter, Jr., Dr. Dauss, Dennis Reagle, Indiana Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Provider are liable from their policies, practices and customs when the Defendants were deliberately indifferent in providing quality safe drinking water at Pendleton Correctional Facility that injured the Plaintiff, Nick Bigsby when he had consumed and bathed from the contaminated water that has harmful bacteria and chemicals in the water from the lead piping at the prison. The Plaintiff is suffering from cough, headaches, abdomen pains, muscle aches, shortness of breath, nausea, cold chills, fever, diarrhea, stool complications, cardiovascular problems and possible kidney problems from bathing and consuming the contaminated water. The Defendants had violated 42 U.S.C. § 300F et seq. (1974) The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Safe Drinking Water Act

(SDWA) was established to protect the quality of drinking water in the U.S. This law focuses on all waters actually or potentially designed for drinking use, whether from above ground or underground sources.

Relief Requested

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that this Court grant the following relief:

- A. Declare that all Defendants in this complaint had violated Plaintiff Eighth Amendment rights to adequate medical care;
- B. Declare that all Defendants in this complaint had violated Plaintiff Eighth Amendment rights to have their basic human needs met in their conditions of confinement;
- C. Declare that all Defendants in this complaint had violated Plaintiff Eighth Amendment rights to Freedom of Expression to seek medical care from the Defendants and was denied from the Defendants because they felt the Plaintiff was a nuisance; this is retaliation against the Plaintiff;
- D. Declare that all Defendants in this complaint had violated Plaintiff Eighth Amendment rights when they neglected treating the Plaintiff's injuries from contaminated water at Pendleton Correctional Facility;
- E. Declare that all Defendants in this complaint had violated 42 U.S.C. § 300F et seq. (1974) The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) when the Defendants had disregarded providing quality safe drinking water for the Plaintiff at Pendleton Correctional Facility;
- F. Issue an injunction ordering the Defendants to:
 - 1. Replace the old lead piping that causes harmful bacteria and chemicals in the water to be contaminated at Pendleton Correctional Facility.
 - 2. To render outside medical care by a licensed medical provider to give adequate medical care to the Plaintiff that was injured from the harmful bacteria and chemicals from the contaminated water at Pendleton Correctional Facility.
 - 3. To hire more staff or activate the National Guard to fulfill the role for the empty vacancy of Indiana Department of Corrections employees and Centurion Medical Provider employees to handle medical care, transportation to medical facilities and any necessary role that is just by the Court's orders.

4. To install intercoms in cell houses so that the Plaintiff as an inmate can communicate with Indiana Department of Corrections and Centurion Medical Providers prison officials when asking for immediate medical services when the Plaintiff adequate conditions of confinement at Pendleton Correctional Facility is not satisfactory.
- G. Award compensatory damages for Plaintiff physical and emotional injuries joint and severally from Defendants;
- H. Award punitive damages to penalize each Defendant;
- I. Provide cost for Plaintiff for all jury proceedings and Court cost; and
- J. Grant Plaintiff such other relief as it may appear Plaintiff is entitled to.

Signature:

Nick Bigsby Nick Bigsby

D.O.C.#: 915268

Date: 10-26-22

Address: Pendleton Correctional Facility,
4490 West Reformatory Road,
Pendleton, IN 46064

Verification

Affidavit or Declaration of Verification, the Affiant declares that the facts stated in a document (e.g., Complaint) are true to his knowledge, and that the facts stated on information and belief are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare (or certify, verify or state) under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct.

Signature:

Nick Bigsby Nick Bigsby

D.O.C.#: 915268

Date: 10-26-22

Address: Pendleton Correctional Facility,
4490 West Reformatory Road,
Pendleton, IN 46064

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned hereby certify that on this the 26th day of October, 2022, I served a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Affidavit In Support of Verified Complaint Without Prejudice upon the U.S. District Court, Southern District Court of Indiana, Indianapolis Division, properly addressed and with sufficient postage affixed, depositing same into the hands of correctional staff for placement in the U.S. Mail, which constitutes filing under the prison "mailbox rule". *Dowell v. State*, 922 N.E.2d 605, 607 (Ind. 2010).


Nick Bigsby

(signature)

Plaintiff / *Pro-se*

IDOC # 915268
Pendleton Correctional Facility
4490 W. Reformatory Road
Pendleton, Indiana. 46064-9001